

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be reexamined.

An Office Action mailed July 3, 2006 ("Office Action"), rejected Claims 1-13 and 15-29, all of the claims remaining in this application. Claims 1-8, 17, 20, 21, 23/1, 23/3, 23/4, 23/8, 23/20, 24/1, 24/3, 24/4, 24/8, 24/20, and 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the teachings of Horvitz et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,880,733. Claims 9-13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 22, 23/9, 23/22, 24/9, 24/22, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the teachings of Horvitz et al., in view of Butler et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,573,913. Claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horvitz et al. in view of Ellison-Taylor, U.S. Patent No. 5,796,402. While applicants respectfully disagree, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, independent Claims 1 and 25 and various dependent claims have been amended to as to more particularly point out and distinctly describe the claimed subject matter.

Applicants thank Examiners Lay and Tung for participating in an Examiner interview by phone on August 9, 2006, at 11:00 a.m. In this interview, the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 was discussed. Specifically, the parties to the interview discussed the automatic determination of whether to move a graphical component, the automatic determination of the destination, and the automatic determination of an open location for destination. Examiner Lay suggested to amend Claim 1 to recite "window" instead of "graphical component" to reduce the probability of reading on related art. Additionally, Examiner Lay pointed out that FIGURE 6 of the specification shows a directional bumping button 610 which indicates a direction for the destination of the graphical component. Examiner Tung commented that amending the claims will likely require the filing of an RCE (Request for Continuing Examination). Applicants

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address the issue of the directional bumping button 610 under REPLY TO RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS section below.

As noted above, even though applicants believe that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, in order to advance the prosecution of the present application, Claims 1, 4-9, 13, 15-19, 21, and 22 have been amended to recite "window" instead of "graphical component" as suggested by Examiner Lay. Claim 3 has been canceled.

Prior to discussing in detail why applicants believe that the Office Action is in error and that all of the claims in this application are allowable, a brief description of the disclosed subject matter and a brief description of the teachings of the cited and applied references are provided. The following discussions of the disclosed subject matter and the cited and applied references are not provided to define the scope or interpretation of any of the claims of this application. Instead, these discussions are provided to help the United States Patent and Trademark Office better appreciate important claim distinctions discussed thereafter.

Disclosed Subject Matter

Systems and methods for moving (or bumping) graphical components, such as windows, between the display regions of a graphical user interface are disclosed. A selected window is moved in response to a signal from an input device. Upon receipt of a movement signal, a destination location for the window is automatically, without further user input, determined or located. Then the window is bumped to the destination location. The destination location is an open location. An open location normally includes an area of the display that no graphical component occupies. An open location may also be an area of an existing window in which no information is displayed, such as an area of the existing window that contains only white space. If multiple open locations are available, a decision is reached regarding which location is most desirable.

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More specifically, one exemplary embodiment is directed to a computer-implemented method of moving a window from one location to another location in a graphical interface. The method comprises, in response to the selection of the window, automatically determining, without further user input, if the window is to be moved from the current location of the window to another location. If the window is to be moved, the method comprises automatically determining, without further user input, a destination location for the window. The destination location comprises an open location in the graphical interface. The method then comprises moving the window from the current location of the window to the destination location.

U.S. Patent No. 5,880,733 ("Horvitz et al.")

Horvitz et al. discloses a three-dimensional perspective, virtual work space for window-based display systems (Abstract). More specifically, Horvitz et al. discloses a system that performs geometric transformation operations on rectangular windows to give the impression to users that the windows are positioned in a three-dimensional space (Col. 3, lines 10-14). Horvitz et al. further states that the display system responds to user activation of control buttons by transforming the shape and orientation of windows consistent with the defined three-dimensional space (Col. 3, lines 17-20). The Horvitz et al. three-dimensional space is enclosed by boundary planes including left, right, front, back, upper, and lower planes (Col. 3, lines 22-26). Horvitz et al. discloses that "[w]hen the transformation command is entered by a user or from a program, a window is transformed and moved to the selected plane of the display system" (Col. 3, lines 47-50; emphasis added). This is in contrast to the present invention wherein a computer-implemented method automatically determines, without further user input, if a graphical component is to be moved. Horvitz et al. further discloses that "windows may be stacked behind one another as illustrated with windows 70 and 72" (Col. 13, lines 51-53; Figure 1; emphasis added). This is in contrast to the present disclosures where a method is

provided for automatically determining, without further user input, an open location to which the graphical component is moved.

In summary, Horvitz et al. discloses a three-dimensional virtual work space wherein a user indicates that a window should be displayed in a particular perspective. In contrast, the present disclosures provide a method for automatically determining, without further user input, if a window is to be moved and for moving said window to an open location.

U.S. Patent No. 6,573,913 ("Butler et al.")

Butler et al. discloses repositioning and displaying an object in a multiple monitor environment. When two or more of the monitors have different color characteristics, overlapping images are processed in accordance with the particular color characteristics of the monitors to accommodate for the differences. An image displayed on a first monitor can be repositioned such that a first portion of the image is displayed on the first monitor and a second portion is displayed on the second monitor. When this occurs, the data representing a first portion of the image is moved from a first location to a second location in a frame buffer in a bit block transfer operation. If the first and second monitors have the same color characteristics, the data representing the second portion is also transferred using a bit block operation. However, if the color characteristics are different, the data representing the second portion of the image is passed through a display engine that adapts the data to the particular color characteristics of the second monitor.

Other than its disclosure of multiple monitors, as described more fully below, Butler et al. appears to have no relevance to the present invention.

U.S. Patent No. 5,796,402 ("Ellison-Taylor")

Ellison-Taylor discloses the placement of windows on a computer screen. Ellison-Taylor, Col. 1, lines 12-14. Ellison-Taylor discloses a method for aligning and proportionally

sizing windows to "tile" the windows covering the entire screen while preserving the relative sizes and positions of the windows. Ellison-Taylor, Col. 2, lines 13-19 and 22-24. Ellison-Taylor discloses a "tiling program that aligns the windows so that their sides touch and so that they fill a bounding window." Ellison-Taylor, Col. 3, lines 42-44.

In summary, Ellison-Taylor discloses a method for aligning and proportionally sizing windows to tile the windows on the screen, in contrast to the present disclosures where a window is bumped to a new location on screen in response to the selection of the window.

REPLY TO RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS

As discussed below in more detail, Horvitz et al. does not teach or suggest a computer-implemented method for automatically determining, without further user input, if a selected window is to be moved. The Office Action states, on page 2, that "Horvitz teaches that the graphical window is moved depending on the type of buttons selected" (emphasis added). Horvitz et al. also explicitly discloses that a window is moved upon a transformation command that is entered by a user. Therefore, it is clear that the determination to move the graphical component is initiated by the user via a selection of buttons. The computer program disclosed by Horvitz et al. simply carries out the transformation command entered by the user. This is in contrast to a computer-implemented method for automatically determining, without further user input, if said window is to be moved, as recited by Claim 1. This claimed feature is supported by the specification on page 10, lines 12-14; page 15, lines 17-20; and FIGURES 2 and 5.

The Office Action states: "the computer program determines the location based on button that is chosen" (emphasis added). As further discussed below, Horvitz et al. discloses three primary controls used to position a window hung on a plane: push-back, perspective-transform right, and perspective-transform left. Hence, Horvitz et al. discloses that the user selects the button that specifies the destination location for the window. This is in

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contrast to a computer-implemented method automatically determining, without further user input, except for location, a destination location for said window, as recited in amended Claim 1. As noted above, the Examiner pointed out that FIGURE 6 of the specification shows a directional bumping button 610 which indicates the direction for the destination. On page 15, lines 29-30, the specification states: "FIGURE 6 illustrates one of many possible exemplary additions to a graphical user interface" (emphasis added). FIGURE 6 illustrates one exemplary embodiment of the disclosed subject matter, namely an embodiment that "...automatically determining, without further user input, except for direction, a destination location..." (emphasis added). Other embodiments require no further user input. Amended Claim 1 covers both variations, i.e., variations that require no further user input and those that require no further user input except for direction. Amended Claim 25 recites substantially the same limitation discussed above with respect to Claim 1. Therefore, amended Claims 1 and 25 are submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons presented above.

The Office Action states that "[i]t would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Horvitz to have the graphical components be moved so that the components are not tiled so that the user is able to see the content of each component regardless of the point of focus." To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Additionally, the prior art reference must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claim combination must be found in the prior art, and not based on applicants' disclosure. (M.P.E.P. § 2142, rev. 2, May 2004). As discussed in more detail below, Horvitz et al. does not teach or suggest moving the window to an open location. Horvitz et al. teaches away from moving the window to an open location by disclosing, in Figure 1, that "windows

may be stacked behind one another as illustrated with windows 70 and 72" (Col. 13, lines 51-53; emphasis added). Those skilled in the art will appreciate that arranging graphical components in a windowing environment such that the graphical components do not overlap is referred to as tiling, and arranging the graphical components such that they do overlap is referred to as cascading. It is unclear what the Office Action is arguing for by stating, as quoted above, "[i]t would have been obvious to . . . modify Horvitz . . . so that the components are not tiled. . . ." In any event, applicants respectfully submit that there is no motivation to modify the teachings of Horvitz et al. to automatically move the graphical components, without further user input, to an open location, as recited by Claim 1. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that all claims pending in this application are allowable for the reasons presented below and for the additional reasons presented above.

Rejection of Claims 1-8, 17, 20, 21, 23/1, 23/3, 23/4, 23/8, 23/20, 24/1, 24/3, 24/4, 24/8, 24/20, and 25-27 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

As mentioned above, the Office Action rejected the above-mentioned claims as being unpatentable over Horvitz et al. Independent Claim 1 recites "A computer-implemented method of moving a window from one location to another location in a graphical interface" that includes "in response to the selection of a window automatically determining, without further user input, if said window is to be moved from the current location of the window to another location; if said window is to be moved, automatically determining, without further user input, except for direction, a destination location for said window, said destination location comprising an open location in said graphical interface" (emphasis added). Horvitz et al. does not teach or suggest a computer-implemented method of automatically determining, without further user input, if a window is to be moved. The Office Action states "with the exception of explicitly teaching determining if said window is to be moved from the current location" (page 3, item 1),

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Horvitz et al. discloses that when a "transformation command is entered by a user," a window is transformed and moved to the selected plane (Col. 3, lines 47-50; emphasis added). Hence, Horvitz et al. teaches away from a computer-implemented method of automatically determining, without further user input, if a window is to be moved. Horvitz et al. explicitly discloses that a window is moved upon a transformation command that is entered by a user. Furthermore, Horvitz et al. does not teach or suggest automatically determining, without further user input, a destination location. Horvitz et al. discloses three primary controls used to position a window hung on a plane: push-back, perspective-transform right, and perspective-transform left. Alternatively, a single transformation control for transforming windows to the various planes may be implemented. Upon selection of the single transformation control, the display system provides a pointer to a selected plane. Generally, the pointer is provided when the cursor control is activated in the direction of a predefined plane. The user may release the cursor control to initiate the transfer (Col. 4, lines 36-54). Therefore, Horvitz et al. discloses that the user, not the system, determines where the destination location is for moving the window. Therefore, independent Claim 1 is respectfully submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above.

Independent Claim 25 recites substantially the same features as discussed with respect to Claim 1 and is submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons presented above with respect to Claim 1.

Claims 2-8, 17, 20, 21, 23/1, 23/3, 23/4, 23/8, 23/20, 24/1, 24/3, 24/4, 24/8, 24/20, and 26-27 depend from independent Claims 1 and 25, directly or indirectly, and are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons presented above with respect to Claims 1 and 25.

Rejection of Claims 9-13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 22, 23/9, 23/22, 24/9, 24/22, and 28 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

As noted above, the above-mentioned claims were rejected as being unpatentable over Horvitz et al., in view of Butler et al. Claims 9-13, 15, 16, 18, 22, 23/9, 23/22, 24/9, 24/22, and 28 depend from Claims 1 and 25, directly or indirectly, and are submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to Claims 1 and 25 since Butler does NOT make up for the deficiencies of Horvitz et al. discussed above with respect to Claims 1 and 25.

Further, many of these claims include additional limitations that further distinguish them from both Horvitz et al. and Butler. For example, Claim 19, which depends from Claim 1 via Claim 15, recites "said blocking graphical components include other graphical components accessed within a predetermined time period prior to determining a destination location for said window" (emphasis added). Horvitz et al. does not teach or suggest accessing other graphical components within a predetermined time period prior to determining the designation location. Horvitz et al. discloses that the window 30 may contain additional smaller windows which may take the form of push-buttons, radio buttons, check boxes, and the like. A user sees a window as an object on the screen and interacts directly with the objects by pushing buttons 34 or scrolling a scroll bar (Col. 8, lines 55-65). Horvitz et al. does not teach or suggest accessing such graphical objects within a predetermined time prior to determining a destination location. Butler et al. fails to supply the teachings missing from Horvitz et al. Butler et al. is directed towards repositioning and displaying an object in a multiple monitor environment and otherwise appears to have no relevance to the present invention. Therefore, Claim 19 is submitted to be allowable for this additional reason.

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Rejection of Claim 29 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

As noted above, the Office Action rejected Claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horvitz et al., in view of Ellison-Taylor. Claim 29 depends from Claim 25 and is submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons presented above with respect to Claim 25. Additionally, Claim 29 recites: "said window expands to fill the area of said optimal open destination" (emphasis added). As recognized in the Office Action, Horvitz et al. does not teach expansion of the window to fill the optimal open destination (page 17, item 3). Ellison-Taylor fails to supply the teachings missing from Horvitz et al. Ellison-Taylor discloses a method for aligning and proportionally sizing windows to "tile" the windows covering the entire screen while preserving the relative sizes and positions of the windows (Col. 2, lines 13-19 and 22-24). Ellison-Taylor does not teach or suggest filling the area of an open destination, which is a subset of the entire screen. Therefore, Claim 29 is submitted to be allowable for at least this additional reason.

CONCLUSION

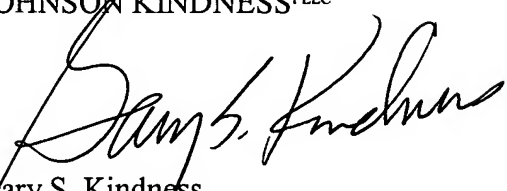
In summary, applicants respectfully submit that all the claims in this application are clearly allowable in view of the disclosures of Horvitz et al., Butler et al., and Ellison-Taylor, applied singly or in any motivated combination. As a result, applicants respectfully request that all of the claims remaining in this application be allowed and this application be passed to issue.

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If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' attorney at the number set forth below.


Respectfully submitted,

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